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*Il Nuovo realismo in Inghilterra e in America.* A. ALIOTTA. Prato : "La Tipografica." 1915. Pp. 114.

This small volume is a very interesting; and, in many respects, a valuable contribution to contemporary philosophical literature. It deals with American new realism, which it studies in its sources and in its doctrines, showing, with unusual acumen, its merits and its shortcomings.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the forerunners of the new realism, especially with Moore and Russell, whose doctrines are accurately exposed in all their forms and ably criticized. In the second part, we are directly introduced to the American new realists. The author does not limit himself to giving an account of their philosophy. He shows their place in the history of modern thought, and contrasts their doctrine with that of the neighboring schools. We learn from his book what the realist owes to the idealist. We realize that modern thought has been modified by the idealistic current to such an extent as to compel the new realists to differ from the ancients in many essential points. Here, also, the author touches upon pragmatism, and shows how it agrees with realism in many respects, differing from it in this essential characteristic that, for the realist, consciousness, although active, does not in any way alter reality.

Not less interesting is the third part of the book, in which the author gives his own criticism of the realistic philosophy. His strongest objection seems to be the excessive pluralism to which realism condemns itself, having rejected all principles of unity, and thereby made impossible any explanation of the genesis of our experience. It may be doubted, says the author, whether the universe is one single system; but no realist can deny that partial systems exist, although their existence is for him a mystery.

In point of fact, the author sees three mysteries in the new American realism: how consciousness can arise from the chaos of external reality; how the unity of the subject can arise from the plurality of phenomena; how an activity can be conceived, which does not alter reality (p. 105).

A fairly complete bibliography of the new realism is appended to the volume, and makes it a useful book of reference.

J. L. PERRIER.

NEW YORK CITY.

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## JOURNALS AND NEW BOOKS

JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY. October, 1916. *The Existence and Function of Inner Speech in Thought*

*Processes* (pp. 365-392): H. B. REED.—The purpose of the investigation was to discover the functions of inner speech in the thought processes, particularly in the apprehension of meaning. The conclusions were: inner speech is not a universal, but an individual trait; inner speech has no important function in comprehension in reading, and in writing, or in the rate of reading and writing. *The Mnemonic Span for Visual and Auditory Digits* (pp. 393-402): ARTHUR I. GATES.—Coefficient of correlation of visual and auditory forms of tests was .625, when the span was taken as basis of comparison, and .225 when the exposure series surpassed the span. The average span for college students was approximately 8.2 digits when the visual methods of presentation was employed, and 7.7 digits with the auditory method. Increasing the number of digits exposed beyond the span decreased the number of digits that can be recalled, this decrease was greater when the auditory method of presentation was used than when the visual method was employed. *The Correlations between Different Memories* (pp. 403-418): FAYE BENNETT.—The purpose of the investigation was to determine the correlation between immediate and mediate retention for auditory and visual presentation with various sorts of material. Nouns presented visually for mediate learning show the highest of the correlations with other memory functions tested. There is a high correlation between mediate and immediate retention of sufficient number and variety of measurements for each type of memory taken. *The Effect on Foveal Vision of Bright Surroundings*, III. (pp. 419-425): PERCY W. COBB.—Previous reports gave results relating to the brightness-difference threshold which lacked in definiteness. The reason was due in part to the form of apparatus used to furnish the test-stimuli. This paper describes a modification of the apparatus used by which those defects were overcome. *On Color Induction with Reference to Color Recognition* (pp. 426-453): MARY ALMACK and G. F. ARPS.—When the after-effect of a primary stimulus is similar to the color of the disc the limen is the lowest of the five limens for this color. When the primary stimulations are not complementary to the secondary stimulations the influence of the effects of primary stimulus upon the recognitive limens of the secondary stimuli is more difficult to trace. *Apparatus and Experiments for the Introductory Course* (pp. 454-459): HOWARD C. WARREN and PRENTICE REEVES.—A description with illustrations is given of (1) a combined tilting board and rotation table and of (2) a size-weight illusion experiment.

De Amicis, Edmondo. *My Last Friend Dog Dick*. Tr. by J. G. Lista. Boston: The Alpine Press. 1916. Pp. 35.

Evans, John E. *The Effect of Distraction on Reaction Time with Special Reference to Practise and the Transfer of Training*.

- Archives of Psychology, No. 37. Edited by R. S. Woodworth. New York: The Science Press. 1916. Pp. iii + 106.
- Frank, Henry. *Psychic Phenomena: Science and Immortality*. Boston: Sherman, French, and Company. 1916. Pp. 556. \$2.50.
- Freud, Sigmund. *The History of the Psychoanalytic Movement*. Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series, No. 25. New York: Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Company. 1916. Pp. iii + 58.
- Leuba, James H. *The Belief in God and Immortality: A Psychological, Anthropological and Statistical Study*. Boston: Sherman, French, and Company. 1916. Pp. xvii + 340. \$2.00.
- Le Bon, Gustave. *The Psychology of the Great War*. Tr. by E. Andrews. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1916. Pp. 480. \$3.00.
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## NOTES AND NEWS

A MEETING of the Aristotelian Society was held on Monday, December 4, 1916, Dr. H. Wildon Carr, president, in the chair. A paper was read by Dr. Bernard Bosanquet on "The Function of the State in promoting the Unity of Mankind." Dr. Bosanquet said, that the essence of the Greek and German theory of the state has been much mistaken by recent critics, although it has been rightly explained by English thinkers (*e. g.*, Green and Lord Haldane, in the Montreal address).

1. The so-called absolutism of the state is merely a caricature of the unique relation between a man and the community with which his will is united, especially in so far as it provides an adjustment of all practical relations.

2 and 3. Speaking of "States" instead of "the State" has soon revenged itself; all the critics speak of states in terms of those defects which it is their inborn function to abolish.

4. Essentially, according to the theory, as having the same task in different territories, states are cooperative. War, as Plato showed, is rooted in their disease. Their function is the organization of rights.

5. The State, then, is a moral being with a conscience, and when its conscience is perverted, will fight for the wrong as its right. But it is a poor way of ensuring peace to deny its conscience under the name of "absolutism" instead of trying to provide for its enlightenment. Yet this is the critics' line.

6 and 7. It is true that the moral position of the state is not comparable to that of a private person, and this view is described as absolutism from unintelligence of what constitutes a moral situation and duty.